

beetles had congregated.”¹ Records of the Biological Survey show this beetle to be devoured by the following additional species of birds: Killdeer, Least Flycatcher, Starling, Orchard Oriole, English Sparrow, Gray-cheeked Thrush and Robin.—W. L. M.

Dissemination of the Chestnut-blight Fungus.—In ‘The Auk’ for January, 1915,² the writer reviewed a paper on birds as carriers of the chestnut-blight fungus.³ It was then remarked that “the part birds play in the general spread of the disease is so small that it will never be seriously urged as a reason for diminishing bird protection.” If further argument were needed to buttress this position, it is available in abundance in a paper by the same authors (plus one) on “Air and wind dissemination of Ascospores of the Chestnut-blight Fungus.”⁴

Two paragraphs of their conclusions are quoted: “In and near badly diseased chestnut groves or forests the number of ascospores falling on each square foot of exposed surface following a period of rain, as indicated by exposure plates, is very large and is sufficient to offer abundant opportunity for new infections.”

“All of these experiments point to air and wind transport of the ascospores of the chestnut-blight fungus as one of the very important methods of dissemination. . . . It can now be said with absolute certainty that following each warm rain of any amount ascospores are carried away from diseased trees in large numbers. Since they have been obtained in large numbers at distances of 300 to 400 feet from the source of supply, the conclusion of the authors that they may be carried much greater distances is justified. During dry periods wind dissemination of ascospores does not occur at all or sinks to a very insignificant minimum.”

If the blight is freely distributed by so omnipresent an agency as the wind, the part that birds play in the dissemination must be reckoned as comparatively unimportant.—W. L. M.

The Ornithological Journals.⁵

Bird-Lore. XVII, No. 2. March–April, 1915.

Bird-Life in Southern Illinois. III. Larchmound: A Naturalist’s Diary. By Robert Ridgway.

A Mysterious Bird of the Marsh. By Verdi Burtch.—A study of the Bittern with excellent photographs.

¹ Conradi, A. F. & Egerton, H. C. The spotted click beetle (*Monocrepidius vespertinus* Fab.). Bull. 179, Dec. 1914, p. 7.

² Vol. XXXII, No. 1, p. 119.

³ Journal Agr. Research, II, No. 6, Sept., 1914, pp. 405–422.

⁴ Journ. Agr. Research, III, No. 6, March, 1915, pp. 493–525.

⁵ The name of the editor and publisher of each journal will be found in the January number of ‘The Auk.’